

P R A Y E R S

O N

Several Occasions.

B Y

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L O N D O N:

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*A Prayer for one desiring to be awakened to
an Experience of the New Birth.*

BLESSED Jesus, thou hast told us in thy Gospel, that unless a Man be born again of the Spirit, and his Righteousness exceed the outward Righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, he cannot in anywise enter into the Kingdom of God. Grant me therefore, I beseech thee, this true Circumcision of the Heart; and send down thy blessed Spirit to work in me that inward Holiness, which alone can make me meet to partake of the heavenly Inheritance with the Saints in Light.

Create in me, I beseech thee, a new Heart, and renew a right Spirit within me. For of whom shall I seek for Succour but of thee, O Lord, with whom alone this is possible? Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me whole ---- O say unto my Soul, as thou didst once unto the poor Leper, I will, be thou renewed ---- Have Compassion on me, O Lord, as thou once hadst on blind *Bartimeus*, who set by the Way-side begging.

Lord thou knowest all Things, thou knowest what I would have thee to do ---- Grant Lord that I may receive my Sight ---- For I

am conceived and born in Sin, my whole Head is sick, my whole Heart is faint, from the Crown of my Head to the Sole of my Feet, I am full of Wounds and Bruises, and putrifying Sores. And yet I see it not, O awaken me, tho' it be with Thunder, to a sensible Feeling of the Corruptions of my fallen Nature ; and for thy Mercies Sake, suffer me no longer to sit in Darkness, and the Shadow of Death.

O prick me, prick me to the Heart! Dart down a Ray of that all-quickenng Light, which struck thy Servant *Saul* to the Ground ; and make me cry out with the trembling Jailor, *What shall I do to be saved.*

Lord behold I pray, and blush, and am confounded that I never prayed on this wise before.

But I have looked upon myself as rich, not considering that I was poor, and blind, and naked---I have trusted to my own Righteousness.----I flatter'd myself I was whole, and therefore blindly thought I had no Need of thee, O great Physician of Souls, to heal my Sickness.

But being now convinced by thy free Mercy, that my own Righteousness is as filthy Rags ; and that he is only a true Christian who is one inwardly ; behold with strong Cryings and Tears, and Groanings that cannot be uttered, I beseech thee visit me with thy
free

free Spirit, and say unto these dry Bones,
Live.

I confess, O Lord, that thy Grace is thy own, and that thy Spirit bloweth where he listeth.----And wast thou to deal with me after my Deserts, and reward me according to my Wickednesses, I had long since been given over to a reprobate Mind, and had my Conscience seared as with a red-hot Iron.

But, O Lord, since by sparing me so long thou hast shewn that thou wouldst not the Death of a Sinner.-----And since thou hast promised that thou wilt give thy holy Spirit to those that ask it, I hope thy Goodness and Long-suffering is intended to lead me to Repentance, and that thou wilt not turn away thy Face from me.

Thou seest, O Lord, thou seest, that with the utmost Earnestness and Humility of Soul, I ask thy holy Spirit of thee, and am resolved in Confidence of thy Promise, who canst not lye, to seek and knock, till I find a Door of Mercy opened unto me.

Lord save me, or I perish ; visit, O visit me with thy Salvation.----Lighten mine Eyes that I sleep not in Death.----O let me no longer continue a Stranger to myself,---- But quicken me, quicken me with thy free Spirit, that I may know myself even as I am known.

Behold

Behold here I am. Let me do or suffer what seemeth good in thy Sight, only renew me by thy Spirit in my Mind, and make me a Partaker of thy divine Nature.----- So shall I praise thee all the Days of my Life, and give thee Thanks for ever in the Glories of thy Kingdom, O most adorable Redeemer; to whom with the Father, and the Holy Ghost, be ascribed all Honour and Praise, both now and for evermore. *Amen.*

A Prayer for one newly awakened to a Sense of the Divine Life.

O Almighty, and everlasting Father, who in the Beginning spake and it was done, saying, Let there be Light and there was Light----- O most adorable Redeemer, who, when *Adam* had eaten the forbidden Fruit wast revealed as the Seed of the Woman, and didst in the Fulness of Time, die an accursed Death to save us from the Guilt and Power of our Sins, and thereby break the Serpent's Head.----O blessed and eternal Spirit, who didst once move upon the Face of the great Deep, who didst overshadow the blessed Virgin, who didst descend on the Son of God at his Baptism, and didst come down after his Ascension in fiery Tongues upon the Heads
of

of each of his Apostles.----O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three Persons and one God, by whose joint Consultation we were first made, and into whose Name we have been again baptized.---Accept my humble and hearty Sacrifice of Praise and Thanksgiving, for calling me out of Darkness into thy marvellous Light; for quickening me when dead in Trespasses and Sins, and moving on the Face of my polluted and disordered Soul.

Thou hast promised, O Lord, that thou wilt not quench the smoking Flax, or break the bruised Reed. And thou hast told us, that thy holy Spirit should be in us as a Well of Water, springing up unto eternal Life.----Finish therefore, I beseech thee, the good Work begun in my Soul, and now thou hast called me, never let me lie down again.

Thou seest, O Lord, the good Seed sown in my Heart, is but as yet as a very small Grain of Mustard-Seed.---O continue to water, with the Dew of thy heavenly Blessing, what thy own Right-Hand hath planted, and it shall become a great Tree.

Thou hast touched the Eye of my Mind by thy divine Power, and I see Men as Trees walking. Let thy holy Spirit, by his blessed Influences more and more remove the remaining Scales, 'till I at length see all Things clearly.

With

With Shame and Confusion of Face, O Lord, I confess, I am unworthy of this and all other thy Mercies. For I have long since done Despite to the Spirit of Grace, crucified the Son of God afresh, and put him to open Shame. But do thou, who art rich in Mercy to all that call upon thee, in Faithfulness, forgive me what is past, and grant I may from henceforward work out my Salvation with Fear and Trembling, since thou hast so graciously wrought in me both to will and to do, after thy good Pleasure.

I know, O Lord, that now thou hast begun to deliver me out of my natural, and worse than *Egyptian* Bondage, I must expect to pass through a barren and dry Wilderness, that there are Lions in the Way, that the Sons of *Anak* are to be grappled with, before I attain to the true Sabbath of the Soul.

But thou, Angel of the everlasting Covenant, who sentest thy ministring Spirits to rescue righteous *Lot*, who ledest thy Sheep by the Hands of *Moses* and *Aaron*.---And didst appear in a Vision to *Ananias*, commanding him to go and lay his Hands upon thy Servant *Saul*;---Send me always a faithful and experienced Pastor, who may lead me by the Hand, and keep me from lingring in my spiritual *Sodom*, by his prudent Directions under thee, and preserve me from the Snares and
Fury

Fury of my spiritual Adversaries, which otherwise may overtake and destroy my Soul.

O make me teachable like a little Child.---
Convert my Soul and bring it low.---Grant
I may be willing to learn what Things I
ought to do, and also may have Power faithfully to fulfil the same.

Strengthen me, I beseech thee, by the holy Spirit, to cut off a Right-Hand, to pluck out a Right-Eye, to lay aside every Weight, especially, the Sin that doth most easily beset me.---To forsake Father and Mother, Brethren and Sisters, yea, and my own Life also, rather than not be thy Disciple.

O suffer me not to deceive my own Soul by a partial Reformation.--- Search me and try me, and examine my Heart, and let no secret unmortified Lust or Passion ever keep me from Life everlasting.

Lord, I am not my own. Thou hast bought me with the Price of thy Son's most precious Blood.---

Thou hast often required, and lo! I now give thee my Heart, to the best of my Knowledge, without secretly keeping back the least Part. For whom have I in Heaven but thee, and what is there on Earth that I can desire in Comparison of thee!

O mould me into thy own most blessed Image, my Lord and my God. Fill me with thy Grace here, fit me for thy Glory
C here-

hereafter. Even so, Lord Jesus, *Amen*, and
Amen.

A Prayer for one under Spiritual Desertion.

O EVER blessed and most compassionate Redeemer, who wast in all things tempted like as we are, Sin only excepted---O thou Lover of Souls, who in the Days of thy Flesh didst offer up strong Cries and Tears, and wast heard in that thou fearedst---O thou Restorer of Mankind, who wast in such an Agony in the Garden, that thou sweatest great Drops of Blood, falling to the Ground---O thou Almighty High-Priest, who, when through the eternal Spirit thou wast about to make thy Soul an Offering for Sin, hadst thy own Divinity withdrawn from thee, and didst cry out, in the Bitterness of thy Soul, *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me*---O thou, who now sittest at the Right-Hand of the Father, continually to make Intercession for us---Look down, I beseech thee, upon me, thy unworthy Servant---For thou hast turned away thy Face, and lo! I am troubled---Thou hast taken off my Chariot-Wheels, and I drive heavily---Thou hast permitted a Cloud to overshadow me, and an horrible Darkness,
Fear-

Fearfulness, and Dread to overwhelm me, so that my Soul would be exceeding Sorrowful, even unto Death, did I not believe thou wouldst yet turn again and visit me.

Father, if it be possible, let this Cup pass from me; but if my Soul cannot be made perfect, unless I drink it, thy Holy, thy Blessed Will be done.

Lo here I am! Deal with me as it seemeth good in thy Sight---Only let thy Grace be sufficient for me; and in the midst of my Agonies send down, I beseech thee, an Angel from Heaven to strengthen me.

Lord, thou knowest that *Satan* has desired to have me, that he may sift me as Wheat: O grant that my Faith fail not.

Suffer, O suffer him not to get an Advantage over me, for thou art not ignorant of his Devices---O let him not so prevail against me, as to make me entertain hard Thoughts of thee, my most loving Master, and compassionate Redeemer---For I know thou of very Faithfulness hast caused me thus to be troubled---And dost afflict me for no other Reason, but to make me Partaker of thy Holiness.

Give me, O give me the Shield of Faith, and enable me to repel all the fiery blasphemous Thoughts, that wicked One shall, at any Time, dart into my Mind---Let me drive them off as carefully as *Abraham* did the Birds
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that came to devour his Sacrifice---And oh! let him never tempt me to think, thou wilt impute them to me for Sin.

Lord, thou only knowest the present Dryness and Barrenness of my Soul, and how liable I am to be tempted to fret against thee, O Lord, and to seek Pleasure in the Creature when I can find no sensible Satisfaction in thee, my great Redeemer, who art God, blessed for ever.

But, I beseech thee, keep my Soul quiet and composed, and for thy Mercy's Sake, enable me only to take Pleasure in thee, and to sit down solitary in the Bitterness of my Soul, and patiently wait till I can draw Comfort from thee, the Fountain of living Waters, rather than hew out to myself broken Cisterns, that will hold no Water.

Never, never let me fall out with any of thy Ordinances, or think, I do not please thee in my holy Duties, because I have no inward sensible Pleasure in them myself.

Enable me to walk by Faith, and not by Sight, and to seek thee in the Use of all appointed Means, though it be sorrowing; being assured, that after three Days I shall find thee in the Temple; or that thou wilt make thyself known unto me, by breaking of Bread, or in some other Way.

Lord, I believe, (help thou my Unbelief) that I am now talking with thee as certainly,
as

as *Mary* was, when thou didst converse with her at the Sepulchre ; though she knew it not ---In thy due Time reveal thyself again to me, as thou didst to her ; and let me hear the Voice of my Beloved.

Thou hast promised, thou wilt not suffer us to be tempted above what we are able to bear, but wilt, with the Temptation, make a Way for us to escape, that we may be able to bear it---Fulfil, O Lord, this thy Promise ---And after I have suffered a while, strengthen, establish, settle, and visit me, as thou didst thy Servant *Abraham*, when he return'd from the Slaughter of the five Kings.

Lord, lift thou up the Light of thy Countenance upon me ; restore to me the Joy of thy Salvation ; and when my Heart is duly prepared, and humbled by these inward Trials, grant me a feeling Possession of thee, my God, for the Sake of thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, *Amen, Amen.*

A Prayer for one under the Displeasure of Relations, for being Religious.

BLESSED Lord, who hast commanded us to call upon thee in Time of Trouble, and thou wilt deliver us ; and hast
always

always shewn thyself to be a God, hearing Prayer, mighty and willing to save; hear me now, I pray thee, when I call upon thee, for Trouble is at Hand.

Thou seest, O Lord, how many of my Brethren, according to the Flesh, persecute me for thy Name's Sake; so that I must renounce them, or decline openly professing thee before Men.

But God forbid I should love Father or Mother, Brethren or Sisters, more than thee, and thereby prove myself not worthy of thee. No! I have long since given thee my Soul and my Body; so lo! I now freely give thee my Friends also.

For I now find by Experience, that as it was formerly, so it is now---They that are born after the Flesh, do persecute those that are born after the Spirit---That thou camest not to send Peace on Earth, but a Sword ---- And that, unless a Man forsake all that he hath, he cannot be thy Disciple.

Lo! I come to perform this Part of thy Will, O my God; being assured, that whosoever forsaketh Father or Mother, Brethren or Sisters, Houses or Lands, for thy Sake, or the Gospel, shall receive a hundred-fold in this present Life, with Persecution, and in the World to come Life everlasting.

I trust, O Lord, it is for thy Sake alone, that I now make an Offering of the Favour
of

of my Friends to thee ; for thou knowest, O Lord, how continually they cry out, *Spare thyself* ; though I am doing no more than thy holy Word strictly requires me to do.

But do thou, O Blessed Saviour, who saidst unto *Peter*, *Get thee behind me* Satan, enable me to stop my Ears to their false Insinuations, charm they never so sweetly ; for *they savour not the Things that be of God, but the Things that be of Men*. And unless, O Lord, thou dost help, they will be an Offence unto me, and cause me to deny the Lord that bought me.

Far be it from me, O Lord, to be surprized, because of those Offences ; for thou hast long since denounced Woe against the World because of Offences ; and, I find, it is needful for my Soul, that such Offences should come, to try what is in my Heart--- And try whether I love thee in Deed and in Truth.

Blessed, therefore, for ever blessed be thy holy Name, that I am accounted worthy to suffer for thy Name's Sake. O let me rejoice, and be exceeding glad, that my Reward shall be great in Heaven.

O let me never regard any of their Threatnings ; for when my Father and Mother forsaketh me, thou, O Lord, I am assured, wilt take me up.

Take

Take me, O take me into the Arms of thy Mercy; for henceforward know I no Man after the Flesh. And whosoever doth the Will of my Father, the same shall be my Brother, and Sister, and Mother.

I know, O Lord, I know that this will expose me to the Derision and Persecution of those that are round about me.

But do thou, who didst seek for the poor Beggar, after he was cast out by the *Jewish* Council, and didst reveal thyself unto him, reveal thyself to me also, when my Name is cast out as Evil by my Friends and the World --- Though they curse, yet bless thou me, O Lord; and enable me, I most humbly beseech thee, to pray for them, even when they most despitefully use me, and persecute me; *Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.*

It is owing, O Lord, to thy free Mercy alone, that I have in any Measure been enlightened to know thee and the Power of thy Resurrection. O let the same Grace be sufficient for them also, and make thy Almighty Power to be known in their Conversion.

Thou didst once, O blessed Saviour, magnify thy Goodness in turning thy Servant *Paul*, from being a bitter Persecutor, to be a zealous Preacher of thy Gospel; and madest the trembling Jailor cry out, even to those
whose

whose Feet he had hurt in the Stocks, *Sirs*,
what shall I do to be saved?

Look down, therefore, I beseech thee, in Pity and Compassion, on those of my own Household; and after I am converted myself, make me, or some other, instrumental to strengthen these my weak Brethren; that though we are now divided amongst ourselves, two against three, and three against two, yet we may at last, all with one Heart and one Mouth, glorify thee, O Lord; that thou mayst come and abide with us, and love us as thou didst *Lazarus*, *Mary*, and her Sister *Martha*. Grant this, O Saviour, for thy infinite Merits Sake. *Amen and Amen.*

*A Prayer for one entrusted with the Education
 of Children.*

O Dearest Jesu, who gatherest thy Lambs into thy Bosom, and didst solemnly command thy Servant *Peter*, to feed thy Lambs; grant I may shew that I love thee more than all Things, by doing as thou hast commanded him.

Lord, who am I, or what is in me, that thou should thus put Honour upon me, in making me any way instrumental to the preparing Souls for thee? O Saviour, I have sin-
 D ned

ned against Heaven, and am no more worthy to be called thy Son, much less to be employed in the Service of thy Children.

But since thou hast been pleased in me to shew forth all thy Mercy, and hast called me by thy good Providence to this blessed Work, grant that I may always remember, that the little Flock committed to my Charge, are bought with the Price of thy own most precious Blood. And let it, therefore, be my Meat and Drink, to feed them with the sincere Milk of thy Word, that they may grow thereby.

To this End, I beseech thee of thy free Grace, first to convert my own Soul, and cause me to become like a little Child myself, that from an experimental Knowledge of my own Corruptions, I may have my spiritual Senses exercised, to discern the first Emotions of Evil that may at any Time arise in their Hearts.

Oh give me, I beseech thee, a discerning Spirit, that I may search, and try, and examine the different Tempers of their Sin-sick Souls; and, like a skilful Physician, apply healing or corrosive Medicines, as their respective Maladies shall require.

Gracious Jesu, let punishing be always my strange Work; and, if it be possible, grant that they may be all drawn to their Duty, as I would be drawn myself, by the Cords of Love. And when I am obliged to correct
them

them, grant it may not be to shew my Authority, or gratify a corrupt Passion, but purely out of the same Motive from which thou dost correct us, to make them Partakers of thy Holiness.

Oh! keep me, I beseech thee, from being angry without a Cause: Permit me not rashly to be provoked by the Infirmities and Perverseness of their Infant Years; but grant I may shew all long Suffering towards them: And by exercising such frequent Acts of Patience and Forbearance, grant I myself may learn the Meekness and Gentleness of Christ.

O thou, who taughtest thy Disciples how to pray, pour down, I beseech thee, the Spirit of Grace and Supplication into their Hearts, that at all Times, and in all Places they may both desire and know how to call upon thee by diligent Prayer.

Father, into thy Hands I commend my own and their Spirits: Look down from Heaven, the Habitation of thy Holiness, and bless them from thy holy Hill.

Keep them, oh keep them unspotted from the World; grant they may fly youthful Lusts, and remember thee, their Creator, in the Days of their Youth. Train them, I beseech thee, in the Way wherein they should go; and when they are old, let them not depart from it.

O thou, who didst sanctify *Jeremiah* from the Womb, and calledst young *Samuel* betimes, to wear a Linnen Ephod before thee, sanctify their whole Spirits, Souls and Bodies, and preserve them blameless, 'till the second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

O thou, who didst endue *Solomon* with Grace, to chuse Wisdom before Riches and Honour; incline their Hearts to make the same Choice of thee, their only Good; and may they always renounce and triumph over the Lust of the Flesh, the Lust of the Eye, and the Pride of Life.

Finally, do thou, O blessed Jesu, who at twelve Years old wast found in the Temple, sitting among the Doctors, both hearing and asking them Questions, grant, that these Children may love to tread the Courts of thy House, and have their Ears opened betimes, to receive the Discipline of Wisdom, that so, if it by thy good Pleasure, to prolong the Time of their Pilgrimage, here on Earth, they may shine as Lights in the World; or, if thou seest it best, to bring down their Strength in their Journey, and to shorten their Days, they may be early fitted by Purity of Heart, to sing eternal *Hallelujah's* to thee, the Father, and the Holy Ghost, in the Kingdom of Heaven for ever.

Grant this, O Father, for thy dear Son's Sake, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen, Amen.

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A Prayer for a Servant.

O Thou high and lofty one, who inhabitest Eternity, yet are pleased to dwell with the humble Heart: O blessed Jesu, who hast made of one Blood, all Nations under Heaven, with whom there is no Respect of Persons, and who in the Days of thy Flesh didst go down to heal a *Centurion's* sick Servant; have Mercy, I beseech thee, on me, even me, also a poor Servant. Stretch forth the Right Hand of thy Power, to heal all the Diseases of my Sin-sick Soul, and enable me by thy holy Spirit, faithfully to discharge the several Duties of that Vocation, whereto I am called by thee, my God. Give me Grace, I most humbly beseech thee, to obey my Master, according to the Flesh, in all Things; not with Eye-service, as a Man-pleaser, but with Singleness of Heart, as unto Christ; knowing, that whatsoever any Man doth, the same he shall receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.

Make my Obedience to my Master on Earth like to that which the holy Angels pay thee in Heaven. When I am commanded to go, may I go; when I am required to come, may I come; whatsoever I am bid to do agreeable to thy Will, may I do it heartily, as unto the Lord,

Lord, and not unto Men. But if at any Time, O Lord, thou shouldst, to try what is in my Heart, permit me to be tempted to do any Wickedness, O do thou give me Grace, as thou didst *Joseph*, patiently to submit to a Prison and to Death itself, rather than sin against thee, my God. Knowing that it is thank-worthy, if a Man for Conscience towards God, endure Grief, suffering wrongfully. Enable me, O Lord, to shew good Fidelity in all Things committed to my Charge. Do thou, who blessedst *Abraham's* Servant, when he went to take a Wife for his Master's Son, *Isaac*; so bless me in all my Master's Business, that he may see, as *Potiphar* did, that the Lord maketh all that I do to prosper in my Hands.

Keep, O Lord, also the Door of my Lips, that I offend at no Time with my Tongue; let a false Tongue be far from me, and let me never lie unto my Master, as *Gebazi* did. O let no such Unfaithfulness cleave unto me; least by being a Partaker with him in his Crime, I partake also in his Punishment. Bridle also my Tongue from ever answering again: May all Sullenness and Peevishness of Temper be put away from me, with all Passion: May I learn of thee, O holy Jesu, to be meek and lowly in Heart; O make me patient of Reproof, willing to be taught, and subject with all Fear and Godly Reverence, not only to the Good and Gentle, but also to the Froward. Or if ever,
thro'

thro' the Weakness of the Flesh, I should offend in this Point, as *Hagar* did against *Sarah*, enable me, I beseech thee, immediately to repent and to return again to my Obedience. Grant also, O Lord, I may behave holily and unblameably to my Fellow-Servants: Let no corrupt Communication, nor foolish Talking or Jestings, which is not convenient, at any Time, come out of my Mouth, but rather giving of Thanks: May our Conversation be always seasoned with the Salt of thy Holy Word, and such as may tend to the edifying one another.

Endue us all with that Charity, which hideth a Multitude of Sins; and if ever, O Lord, thy Glory should call me to bring up an ill Report to my Master against any of my Fellow-Servants, which, I beseech thee, of thine Mercies, I may never have Occasion to do; grant it may be done with Gentleness and Compassion, not to insinuate myself into my Master's Favour, but to prevent them sinning against thee, and thereby ruining their own Souls. Keep us, we beseech thee, from striving among ourselves, as *Abraham's* and *Lot's* Herdsmen did, about any of the Concerns of this Life; but grant we may be always provoking each other to Love and to good Works. Preserve us, we beseech thee, from envying one another, either the Favour of our Master, or any Blessing whatsoever. Let us not seek our own, but each our Brother's Welfare,

Welfare, as Members of the same Body, as Disciples of the same Lord; when one of us suffers, let all of us suffer; when one of us rejoices, let all of us rejoice with him: Make us Pitiful and Tender-hearted to each other, and if at any Time we should have a Quarrel, enable us, O Lord, immediately to forgive one another, even as thou, God, for Christ's Sake, has forgiven us.

Finally, O Lord, endue us with a deep Humility, that we may in Brotherly Love prefer one another, and in Lowliness of Mind each of us esteem his Brother better than himself. O hear all our Prayers for our Master, and grant that he and his Household may faithfully serve thee, our Lord. O make him as devout as *Cornelius*, and us, like the Soldiers that waited upon him, devout also. That thus adorning thy holy Gospel in all Things, we may at thy second coming to judge the World, be rewarded according as we have improved the different Talents which we have received from thee, O glorious Redeemer, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, World without End. *Amen, Amen.*

F I N I S.

